

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. New claims 9 and 10 have been added. Support for the amended claims can be found in the specification on page 36, line 19 to page 37, line 19. Support for the newly added claims can be found in the specification on page 28, lines 7-18. Claims 1-10 are now pending in the application. The rejections are respectfully submitted to be obviated in view of the amendments and remarks presented herein.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants request acknowledgment of receipt of the certified copy of priority document Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-341060, a copy of which was filed at the USPTO on January 24, 2002.

**Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) - Santo et al.**

Claims 1-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Santo et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,344,936; hereinafter “Santo”). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding amended claim 1, a lens driving apparatus drives a movable body in a focus direction and a tracking direction. The lens driving apparatus comprises: a holder, to which a focus coil, a tracking coil and a lens are installed, to thereby constitute the movable body; and a magnetic circuit for applying magnetic fluxes to the focus coil and the tracking coil, to thereby drive the movable body in the focus direction and the tracking direction. The tracking coil includes two sets each having upper and lower two coils arrayed in the focus direction such that the two sets are arrayed in the tracking direction. The magnetic circuit applies the magnetic

fluxes opposite to each other along a jitter direction, with respect to the upper two coils and the lower two coils without applying the magnetic fluxes with respect to portions adjacent to the upper and lower two coils at least in an initial position thereof.

The cited reference Santo does not disclose the aforementioned features of Applicants' invention. Santo's magnetic circuit does not apply the magnetic fluxes with respect to portions adjacent to the upper and lower two coils, as described in amended claim 1. Fig. 4 of Santo discloses that a density of the magnetic flux becomes 0 at a boundary *point* between the tracking coils 46 and 47 (or 48 and 49). However, in the lens driving apparatus described in amended claim 1, the density of the magnetic flux does not become 0 solely at the boundary line between the tracking coils, but also at a boundary portion (area) between the tracking coils (i.e. the boundary line and the boundary portion corresponds to the portion (not point) adjacent to the upper and lower two coils).

At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, the invention defined by Applicants' claim 1 is patentable over Santo. Applicants' claims 3, 5 and 7 are dependent claims including all of the limitations of independent claim 1, which, as established above, distinguishes over Santo. Therefore, claims 3, 5 and 7 are distinguished over Santo for at least the aforementioned reasons as well as for their additionally recited features. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) are respectfully requested.

Regarding amended claim 2, a lens driving apparatus drives a movable body in a focus direction and a tracking direction. The lens driving apparatus comprises: a holder, to which a focus coil, a tracking coil and a lens are installed, to thereby constitute the movable body; and a

magnetic circuit for applying magnetic fluxes to the focus coil and the tracking coil, to thereby drive the movable body in the focus direction and the tracking direction. The tracking coil includes two sets each having upper and lower two coils arrayed in the focus direction such that the two sets are arrayed in the tracking direction. The magnetic circuit applies the magnetic fluxes opposite to each other along a fitter direction, with respect to the upper two coils and the lower two coils by a first density while applying the magnetic fluxes with respect to portions adjacent to the upper and lower two coils by a second density which is less than the first density at least in an initial position thereof. The magnetic circuit has magnets, in which a magnetic polarization is performed according to a shape corresponding to a portion except the portions adjacent to the upper and lower two coils.

The cited reference Santo does not disclose the aforementioned features of Applicants' invention. Applicants' claimed lens driving apparatus comprises a magnetic circuit "having magnets, in which a magnetic polarization is performed according to a shape corresponding to a portion except the portions adjacent to the upper and lower two coils," as recited in amended claim 2. Santo discloses a magnetic circuit applying larger magnetic fluxes with respect to the upper two coils and the lower two coils than with respect to portions adjacent to the upper and lower two coils. However, there is no mention in Santo of the elements of the magnetic circuit as recited in amended claim 2.

At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, the invention defined by Applicants' claim 2 is patentable over Santo. Applicants' claims 4, 6 and 8 are dependent claims including all of the limitations of independent claim 2, which, as established above, distinguishes over

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
U.S. Application No. 09/986,403  
Attorney Docket No. Q67185

Santo. Therefore, claims 4, 6 and 8 are distinguished over Santo for at least the aforementioned reasons as well as for their additionally recited features. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2, 4, 6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) are respectfully requested.

**Newly Added Claims**

Claims 9 and 10 are newly added by this Amendment and are believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 9 and 10 depend from claims 1 and 2, respectively, and are allowable for analogous reasons as discussed above.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

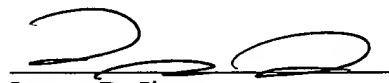
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